

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: SSI-00501

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A high pressure chamber for processing of a semiconductor substrate comprising:

a. a chamber housing comprising a first sealing surface;
b. a platen comprising a region for holding the semiconductor substrate and a second sealing surface; and
c. a single mechanical drive mechanism having a single pressure source for forming and maintaining a high-pressure processing chamber around the semiconductor substrate, the single mechanical drive mechanism coupling the platen to the chamber housing such that in operation the single mechanical drive mechanism separates the platen from the chamber housing for loading of the semiconductor substrate and further such that in operation the said single mechanical drive mechanism causes the second sealing surface of the platen and the first sealing surface of the chamber housing to contact, thus forming and maintaining [[a]] the high pressure processing chamber around the semiconductor substrate.

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Claim 2 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 1 wherein the first sealing surface of the chamber housing comprises an o-ring groove.

Claim 3 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 2 further comprising an o-ring within the o-ring groove.

Claim 4 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 1 wherein the second sealing surface of the platen comprises an o-ring groove.

Claim 5 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 4 further comprising an o-ring within the o-ring groove.

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Claim 6 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 1 wherin the first sealing surface of the chamber housing seals to a spacer and further wherein the second sealing surface of the platen seals to the spacer.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The high pressure chamber of claim 1 wherin the single mechanical drive mechanism comprises a piston driven by a fluid.

Claim 8 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 7 wherein the fluid comprises an incompressible fluid.

Claim 9 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 7 wherein the fluid comprises a compressible fluid.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The high pressure chamber of claim 1 wherein the single mechanical drive mechanism comprises an electro-mechanical drive mechanism.

Claim 11 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 10 the electro-mechanical drive mechanism comprises a linear actuator.

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Claim 12 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 11 wherein the linear actuator comprises a drive screw.

Claim 13 (original): The high pressure chamber of claim 1 further comprising a mechanical clamp coupled to the chamber housing and the platen such that in operation the mechanical clamp maintains the high pressure processing chamber during processing.

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Claim 14 (currently amended): A high pressure chamber for processing of a semiconductor substrate comprising:

- a. a chamber housing;
- b. a platen comprising a region for holding the semiconductor substrate;
- c. a single mechanical drive mechanism having a single pressure source for forming and maintaining a high-pressure processing chamber around the semiconductor substrate, the single mechanical drive mechanism coupling the platen to the chamber housing such that in operation the single mechanical drive mechanism separates the platen from the chamber housing for loading of the semiconductor substrate; and
- d. means for sealing coupled to the chamber housing such that in operation the said single pressure source mechanical drive mechanism causes the means for sealing, the platen, and the chamber housing to form and maintain [[a]] the high pressure processing chamber around the semiconductor substrate.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): An apparatus for high pressure processing of a semiconductor substrate comprising:

- a. a pressure chamber frame;
- b. a single piston coupled to the pressure chamber frame and comprising a piston body and a piston neck, the pressure chamber frame and the piston body forming a first fluid cavity;
- c. a sealing plate coupled to the pressure chamber frame, the sealing plate in conjunction with the pressure chamber frame, the piston body, and the piston neck forming a second fluid cavity;
- d. a platen coupled to the piston neck, the platen comprising a region for holding the semiconductor substrate and a first sealing surface; and
- e. a top lid coupled to the pressure chamber frame and comprising a second sealing surface, the first sealing surface of the platen and the second sealing surface of the top lid configured such that in operation the said piston body can be moved so that the first and second sealing surfaces contact to form and maintain a high pressure processing chamber using a single pressure within the first fluid cavity, and in further operation the piston body can be moved so that the first and second sealing surfaces do not contact, thereby allowing the semiconductor substrate to be loaded into and unloaded from the pressure chamber frame.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the high pressure processing chamber is a supercritical processing chamber.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the high pressure processing chamber is a non-supercritical processing chamber.